

REMARKS AND DISCUSSION

Upon entry of the present amendment, Claims 1-16 and 18-21 remain in the application, of which claims 1, 12 and 21 are independent.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 12, 13, and 21 by the present amendment.

The Examiner correctly states in the Notice of Allowability that Applicant's representative approved the Examiner's amendment of record, describing the brace as including a pair of parallel legs and a web interconnecting the legs, in a telephone conference on 10/20/05.

The changes previously made by the Examiner's Amendment, as best understood by applicant from the written record, are reflected in the current listing of claims before any current changes being made by the present amendment. Only the changes made by the current amendment are indicated by strikethrough and/or underlining.

However, after further consideration and discussion with the applicant, it was decided that with all due respect to the Examiner, the use of the term "web" is not the best choice to describe the connecting member extending between the parallel legs of the U-shaped brace. The term "web" could conceivably cause confusion in the hunting and tree stand art, since woven webbing is sometimes used to provide a seat for a hunter, and since such woven webbing is not part of applicant's claimed invention. Accordingly, the present amendment substitutes the generic term "connecting member" in place of the term --web-- as previously inserted in the Examiner's amendment, throughout the claims. The connecting member is part of the U-shaped brace, and is clearly shown in the drawings, particularly in Figures 2 and 3.

A few other minor changes are being made to the claims by the present amendment, in

the interest of clarity.

No new matter is added by any of these minor revisions to the claims. The reason why these changes to the claims are necessary and were not earlier presented is because the issue regarding the term "web" has only recently arisen in the application, and was introduced into the claims in the Examiner's amendment, and at the suggestion of the Examiner.

While applicant's representative initially thought that the term "web" would be acceptable, it turned out that the applicant prefers to use the term "connecting member", for the reasons listed above.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully suggests that as presently amended, all of the pending claims are believed to be allowable. No new matter has been added by the present amendment.

For all of the above mentioned reasons, applicant requests entry of the present amendment, and confirmation of continued allowance of the pending claims.

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Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted, via facsimile, to Examining Group 3634 of the United States Patent and Trademark Office on December 6, 2005, at the number (571) 273-8300.

